

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting 21st November 2023

Item No: 6

North West Area Halloween Report

The North West Area Public Domain Team collaborated with numerous Dublin City Council Departments (Parks, Waste Management, Waste Enforcement, DFB, and Housing) to remove as much stockpiled materials as possible from the area. They also worked alongside Gardaí from Ballymun and Finglas as part of “Operation Tombola” to remove stockpiled material and reduce the negative impact bonfires would have on the area. This collaborative effort commenced on Saturday 21st and concluded on the afternoon of 31st October.

Approximately 4,300 information leaflets describing the dangers of bonfires and detailing Dublin City Council contact information were handed to residents near areas where bonfires are commonly conducted.

The Public Domain Team visited businesses on the industrial estates and advised them to secure bonfire materials in the weeks leading up to Halloween. Public Domain and Housing Staff carried out regular inspections of voids and green spaces throughout the NWA to check for the presence of stockpiling.

In total there were 23 burning/bonfires locations - 10 in Ballymun and 13 in Finglas, the majority of which were minor with minimal damage evident. The successful Amnesty Day, held in September, also significantly reduced the number of mattresses illegally disposed in the run up to Halloween. Over 63 tonnes of stockpiled material was removed from the Finglas and Ballymun areas.

Waste Management Services have indicated that the total figure of stockpiled material collected was 493 tonnes citywide, which is slightly up from the 2022 figure of 441 tonnes. The below table highlights the reduction of purpose built bonfires containing pallets and tyres for Halloween night. Overall the domestic waste fires were minor in comparison.

Location	Bonfire (Pallets& Tyres)	Domestic waste
Ballymun	5	5
Finglas	9	4

The clearing and cleaning of all bonfire sites has now been completed by Parks Services.



Finglas



Ballymun



Cooperation between Dublin City Council and local Gardaí was key to the success of the operation this year, with minimal damage to public amenities reported.

Ballymun Otherworld Festival

The Halloween Otherworld Festival kicked off with several spooky events on the run up to Main Halloween Event on 31st October.

Terror in Trinity

The Community Team were delighted to support the very successful haunted school walk in Trinity Comprehensive where you got to meet many unusual people & creatures who haunt the school by night.



Jackula & Spooky Cinema

The Jackula Magic Show & Spooky cinema screenings of the Adams Family were both very well attended in the Axis Theatre. A large portion of tickets were given to community groups, organisations and local schools to distribute directly to local families.



Glas Ghostly Garden & Haunted Pumpkin Patch

With the support of Dublin City Council, Glas Community Garden turned spooky and was packed with story tellers and ghostly entertainment. Prizes were awarded for best costume, pumpkin carving and decorating.

Vampire Tours in the Rediscovery Centre

The Vampire Tours were a great success and a lot of fun was had with 130 children attending the tours. The resident vampires in the Rediscovery Centre invited mad scientists to join them to explore their haunted Bat Cave and spooky Mad Scientist Lab. As part of the Otherworld Halloween Festival, they travelled through the vampire's lair to learn all about bats. The vampires then brought the children to the Mad Scientist Lab to undertake some Halloween-themed experiments.

Dublin City Council Witches Walk

The Poppintree DCC Walking Group embraced the Halloween Theme and dressed up for the weekly walk in Poppintree Park on 26th October. Afterwards a Halloween Event was held in the Silloge Neighbourhood Centre with music, dancing, refreshments and fancy dress competition. This was organised by the Dublin City Council Ballymun Community Team in collaboration with the staff of the Silloge Neighbourhood Centre as part of the Ballymun Otherworld Festival.



Sensory Friendly Halloween

The Ballymun Community Team were delighted to add the first sensory friendly option as part of the Otherworld Festival. Embrace Autism teamed up with Dublin City Council & Axis to offer a sensory friendly Halloween experience for children & families with additional needs & sensory sensitives. We held 2 afternoon sessions on Halloween before the big event kicked off, facilitating over 30 children.



The Otherworld Main Event

The Otherworld main event took place on site on the Ballymun Plaza from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. This was a fantastic evening with variety of entertainment for all the community to enjoy. It is estimated that over 6,000 people attended the events organised and supported by our Community Development Team in Ballymun despite the rain on the evening



On the night there were circus performances, carnival rides, family friendly spooky arts and crafts activities, kiddies block disco tent, face painters and main stage entertainment. Jamie Harrington and Zeinab were our local hosts for the evening.

We had a number of top class local artists on the main stage, including Dame Stuff the Queen of Ballymun, Zeztra, Mason X, Ciara Lennon, The Recovery Dance Group, Keith Groves Dance Act and Spring Break along with many others.



Families entered the Fancy Dress Competition and hundreds of people attended the celebrations in fancy dress to add to the festivities and atmosphere.



The Lil' Monsters BLOCK Party Tent was a huge hit with the younger kids, they had fun with the interactive play and building buzz with our big blue blocks and danced the night away in a safe environment. The craft tent was very popular with plenty of masks and crafts being handmade with the help of our local group members. This year we had the young people from Poppintree Youth Project join us to host PoppoCast, a live mini - podcast of the event was streamed straight from Axis.

Ballymun Groups that took part this year:

Poppintree Youth Project, Easy Street Team, Ballymun Regional Youth Resource team, Students from Trinity Comprehensive and The Silloge Ladies Club.



Circus Gerbola delivered an amazing display and wowed the audience with their performance from suspended heights. Their finale was show stopping and was followed by the much anticipated firework display



A special word of thanks goes to all the additional community volunteers who helped throughout the day and the night.

The Ballymun Community & Social Development team organised and managed the event in collaboration with the Otherworld Festival Committee and Axis.

An Garda Síochána attended the event and with the assistance of the Event Management Company, Safe Events who controlled and monitored the crowds throughout the festival site. Civil Defence and Dublin Fire Brigade also attended.

Finglas Fright Night Halloween

The Finglas Halloween Festival “Finglas Fright Night,” took place on site at the Finglas Civic Centre on Tuesday 31st October from 5.00pm to 9.00pm. Approximately 7 thousand people attended the event this year.

This was the first year we had the Sensory Hour from 5.00pm to 6.00pm for children with sensory needs. It was a great success with over 100 attending. All the children were able to enjoy the event in a calm and controlled environment. The Sensory Hour will continue to feature in future Halloween Events.

There was a wide variety of entertainment for the community to enjoy on the night including carnival rides, inflatable obstacle courses, magic from magician Carl Campbell, food, coffee and treat stalls and various old fashioned carnival game with prizes, face painters and balloon modellers. On the main stage the night kicked off with several performances from the children and young adults from the band “The MC Warriors”, a very talented group from the Meeting Place Club. They were a big hit on the night.

There were also performances from our Finglas locals, Dougie Douglas, Darian Kavanagh, Cathlin C and Cian Carey – Dubal C. All proved to be highly popular on the night. The very popular Irish Ed Sheeran was our headline act and put on a star performance while the crowd danced and sang along, especially all the teenagers.



The Finglas Community and Social Development team organises and manages this event with assistance from the Finglas Area Office and the Finglas Sports and Fitness Centre staff. The safety on the night which includes health and safety and security was contracted to Safe Events. The Civil Defence covered our first aid station and fire cover. An Garda Síochána supported the event and with the assistance of PULSE security which monitored the crowds throughout the festival site ensuring the night ran smoothly.



We had 22 local groups take part this year, totalling over 100 volunteers from the local community. The combined amount raised this year was just over €5,500 for the Finglas Community Groups.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Deputy Lord Mayor Briega Mac Oscar and our North West Area local representatives for attending our Finglas Fright Night Event.

We finished off a very successful Finglas Fright Night with a Fantastic Fireworks Display from Mellows Park.



Groups that took part this year:

- Finglas Counselling Support
- Finglas Mens Sheds
- Feed Our Homeless
- Meeting Place Club
- Finglas Historical Society
- Finglas West Summer Project
- Rivermount Summer Project
- WFTRA
- Finglas West Summer Project
- St. Kevin's & St. Josephs Summer Project
- The Fingal Centre
- > Finglas Suicide Network
- > Sister Sheds & Sister Shed morning
- > Finglas Tidy Towns
- > Finglas South Combined Residents
- > Ocras Éire
- > The Den ladies Club
- > The Finglas marching band
- > FAST
- > FYRC
- > The Den Youth Club

The success of the Halloween Festival would not happen without the input of so many dedicated volunteers in Finglas Community.



It is estimated that in excess of 13,000 people attended the supporting events and both festivals. The estimated total cost of the planning, organising and successful running of both festivals is circa. €170,000.

Jackie O'Reilly and Pat Teehan
North West Area Managers